

# PREPARE FOR WINTER: KEEP YOUR POWER BILL LOW

## Use less hot water

Using less hot water reduces your energy consumption and **costs you less money**.

- Take a shower instead of a bath and reduce your shower time. A timer and shower flow restrictors can help.
- **Use cold water** for your laundry and run the dishwasher and washing machine with full loads.
- Fix any leaks around your home.
- Set the thermostat of your hot water cylinder to 55-60°C (you may need a plumber to do that).
- Wrap your hot water cylinder with a cylinder wrap to reduce heat loss (**lost heat = lost money**).

## Appliances and lighting

- Choose energy-efficient appliances and **turn them off** when not in use (not on standby).
- Do not leave devices plugged in when they are fully charged.
- Use timers and a thermostat to reduce your power consumption for things like heaters, freezers, lights, etc.
- Identify the appliances that are using a lot of power and **replace them**, if possible, with more efficient models, or **minimise their use**. You can use the home health assessment kit (available from Wairarapa Libraries) to test your appliances.
- Switch your lightbulbs to LEDs to reduce your power bill for lighting by up to 83 per cent.

## Fridge/freezers

- Make sure that fridge and freezer doors are **sealing properly**.
- Leave 3-5cm between the back of your fridge or freezer and the wall, to enable good ventilation. **Poor air circulation can double the electricity use of a fridge or freezer**.
- Manage the temperature of your refrigeration appliances (-18°C for your freezer and 2-4°C for your fridge).

## Electricity plan

- [Powerswitch.org.nz](https://powerswitch.org.nz) helps you find the best electricity and gas plan. Keeping track of your bills will help you understand where you can make savings.

## Useful links

Homefit Online check: <https://tools.genless.govt.nz/individuals/homefit-online-check/>

